DECEMBER 2025 COMMENCEMENT

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Wayne State Fieldhouse

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COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

Commencement is an exciting and memorable occasion for all of our graduates. Leaving before the ceremony has ended is disruptive and disrespectful to others. Graduates and their guests are expected to remain for the entire ceremony. The last graduate to cross the stage should expect to receive the same honor as the first, so please show consideration for all graduates by remaining seated until the conclusion of the ceremony.

Please refrain from excessive talking and other distractions, as this takes away from the dignity of the ceremony. Cellphones and watches with alarms can also be distracting. Out of respect for all graduates and guests, please switch any and all of your electronic equipment to silent, vibrate or off.

Please observe the instructions and maintain respectful silence, especially during presentations. Your cooperation will enhance the enjoyment and remembrance of this joyous event for all.

RECOGNITION FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Students who attain high scholastic achievement are denoted by an asterisk after their name. The official list of graduates cited for *cum laude* (*), *magna cum laude* (**) or *summa cum laude* (***) will be compiled subsequently and their diplomas will carry the appropriate notation. This practice is observed at the undergraduate level only.

Students who have achieved distinction by completing the requirements for department and/or university honors are designated in the program book by (DH) for department honors and/or (UH) for university honors. Their diplomas acknowledge these scholastic achievements. Students graduating with honors conferred by departments, schools and colleges, and by the Irvin D. Reid Honors College are eligible to wear a gold collar in recognition of their achievements. Students completing the graduation requirements for the Community of Scholars will receive a blue cord to wear with their cap and gown.

Dr. Elena Past is interim dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College.

PROGRAM BOOK

Names submitted for the program book were compiled by lists submitted by graduate applications. There will be no program reprints to accommodate incorrect spelling or missing names. Due to publication deadlines, names and honor designations of students added to the graduation list after Nov. 19, 2025, will not appear in the program book.

The appearance of a name, recognition for academic achievement, and department and/or university honors on the following lists is presumptive, but not conclusive of graduation. Participation in the commencement ceremony does not constitute graduation. Academic records will show the graduation date and recognition for academic achievement when degrees have been certified. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this program's content. Any omissions or errors are unintentional.

THANK YOU

The Office of University Commencement would like to thank the faculty, staff and students who have volunteered their time and efforts as guest services volunteers or ceremony services volunteers for the December 2025 commencement ceremonies.

We would also like to thank the many university offices and departments for the services they provide to make these ceremonies successful:

Office of the Board of Governors
Academic Senate
Academy of Scholars
Athletics
Computing and Information Technology
Dean of Students Office
Facilities Planning and Management
Media Services
Office of the President
Office of Procurement and Strategic Sourcing
Office of the Provost
Office of the Registrar
Risk Management
Special Events
Street Squad
University Communications and Marketing
WSU Alumni Association
Wayne State University Police Department

Thank you to the school and college deans, their office staff, and academic personnel for their efforts and work with the commencement office to ensure our students are able to participate in this momentous occasion.

"HYMN TO WAYNE"

To thee, our Alma Mater,
Homage we bring.
Brave hearts raise grateful voices
Thy praise to sing.
Young art thou, young and strong;
Renowned shalt thou live, and long;
Honors to thee will throng-
And Fame to thee cling.
We laud thee, Alma Mater,
Guardian of Right.
Thou art our guide, our mentor-
Thy name shines bright.
Keep Learning's light aflame,
And hold Truth a sacred name,
Honor, thy steadfast aim.
All hail to thy might.

Nicholas Stanley Oates, 1929

The WSU MACE

The Academic Mace of Wayne State University is a ceremonial scepter whose features relate to the ancient maces used by universities worldwide. Though a symbol of the highest ideals of humankind, many maces exhibit the main characteristics of their most ancient relative, the medieval battle mace or war club.

The university's 51-inch mace consists of layers of carved ebony held in place by a tubular shaft. By tradition, it is carried by the president of the Academy of Scholars or a representative, and occupies a prominent place before those who attend and conduct the commencement ceremony. It is a symbolic weapon to protect and proclaim the ideals of harmony, truth, justice and learning.

The Academic Mace of Wayne State University is a gift of Sara and Melvyn Maxwell Smith. A 1939 graduate of the university, Mr. Smith was for many years a generous contributor to the artistic enrichment of campus life.

The Academic Mace was designed and created in 1984 by Phillip Fike, professor of art.

Thank you to M. Safwan Badr, chair of internal medicine, School of Medicine; Brad R. Roth, professor of law and political science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Law School; and Feng Lin, professor of electrical and computer engineering, James and Patricia Anderson College of Engineering, for their participation as mace bearers for the December 2025 commencement ceremonies.

THE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The governors of Wayne State University and their successors in office constitute a body corporate known as the Board of Governors of Wayne State University, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Michigan. The board consists of eight members elected by the people of Michigan for eight-year terms. Each governor holds office until completion of the term and a successor has been nominated and elected in statewide elections. All vacancies that occur within the eight-year terms are filled through appointment by the governor of the state. Board members serve without compensation but are entitled to necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of their office.

The Board of Governors elects the president of the university and has general supervision of Wayne State University and the control and direction of all expenditures from university funds. It enacts bylaws and regulations for the conduct of its business and for the governance of the university. It sets tuition and policy for other fees and charges; determines the compensation to be paid for services; confers degrees; sets the policy for management of gifts, grants, bequests, agreements and contracts; and leases or disposes of property.

Michigan's constitutional system of independent, elected boards to govern its universities is different from systems of most other states. It has helped Michigan to develop and preserve one of the nation's finest systems of colleges and universities. Each governing board devotes itself to one university and is able to work carefully to develop and nurture the excellence of that institution. The constitutional independence of the boards protects the universities from political interference; the election of boards by the voters assures that universities remain responsible to the public at large.

Shirley Stancato,
chair

Bryan C. Barnhill II,
vice chair

Danielle Atkinson

Michael Busuito

Marilyn Kelly

Anil Kumar

Terri Lynn Land

Sunny Reddy

Richard A. Bierschbach,
ex officio

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY INTERIM PRESIDENT RICHARD A. BIERSCHBACH

Dear Warriors,

Congratulations on your graduation from Wayne State University! Today offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that you've accomplished with your family, friends and everyone who has supported you along the way.

Earning a WSU degree takes persistence, focus and heart — qualities that deeply define what it means to be a Warrior. You've earned this moment.

You chose Wayne State because you knew this university would challenge you, prepare you and help you grow — not only as a student, but as a person ready to make a difference. As you leave campus today, you join a proud network of more than 300,000 alumni whose impact reaches across Detroit, throughout Michigan and around the world.

Thank you for the countless ways you and your peers have helped shape Wayne State during your time here. Your ideas, energy and commitment have strengthened our community and inspired those who will follow in your legacy.

As you take your next steps, remember that Wayne State will always be part of your story — and you will always be part of ours. Stay connected, return often, and share your experiences near and far. Our alumni serve as the greatest guides for the next generation of Warriors as they carve their own paths.

You have strengthened our community and inspired those who follow in your legacy. Celebrate this wonderful accomplishment! Go forward with drive, purpose and compassion — and always remain Warrior Strong.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Bierschbach
Interim President and John W. Reed Professor of Law

GOVERNORS EMERITI

Vernice D. Anthony

Richard Bernstein

Debbie Dingell

Diane Dunaskiss

Michael Einheuser

Mark Gaffney

Elizabeth Hardy

Paul Hillegonds

Danialle Karmanos

Denise J. Lewis

Annetta Miller

David A. Nicholson

Sandra Hughes O'Brien

Gary S. Pollard

Michael T. Timmis

Kim Trent

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Richard A. Bierschbach, *Interim President and John W. Reed Professor of Law*

Keith E. Whitfield, *Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Rohini Ananthakrishnan, *Vice President for Digital Strategy and Operational Excellence*

Bernard J. Costello, *Senior Vice President for Health Affairs*

Bethany Gielczyk, *Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer*

Ezemenari M. Obasi, *Vice President for Research & Innovation*

Michael Poterala, *Vice President for Legal Affairs, Audit and Compliance, and General Counsel*

David Ripple, *Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs and President, Wayne State University Foundation*

Melissa Smiley, *Chief of Staff and University Relations Officer*

Ned Staebler, *Vice President for Economic Development and President, TechTown*

Erika Wallace, *Director of Athletics*

THANK YOU

Thank you Douglas Bianchi, conductor, associate professor of music and director of university bands; Lillian Fellows, soloist; and members of the Wayne State University Wind Symphony for their participation and performance in the December 2025 commencement ceremonies.

Wayne State University Wind Symphony
Conductor: Doug Bianchi
Graduate Student Conductor: Tim VanRiper

Piccolo
Elena Plater

Flute
Alexia Kalush
Chailyn Wacasey*

Oboe
Molly Kelly

Bassoon
Bennett Curran

Clarinet
Sophie Hazelton
Dara Nivanh
Ryan Rainey*

Bass Clarinet
Emily Finkbeiner

Contrabass Clarinet
Adora Calagias

Alto Saxophone
Jessica Huynh
Frank Rasizzi*

Tenor Saxophone
Hayden Brasgalla

Baritone Saxophone
Kenneth Warsop

French horn
Bailey Broccardo

Trumpet
Mackenzie Jones*
Gavin Malak
Dennis Surhigh

Cornet
Alex Maurer
Joshua Pap

Trombone
Lee Bonnette
Lucky Sculley
Shane VanAbel*

Baritone
Mitchell Roth

Tuba
Krypton Adams
Audrey Brock*

Percussion
Austin Comstock
Codenne Fleming
Eli Jasman
Brendan Mendoza
Claire Stone
Sam Wolcott*

Bass
Rowan O'Brien

*denotes section leader

COLLEGE OF FINE, PERFORMING AND COMMUNICATION ARTS
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

ORDER of EXERCISES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
9 a.m.

Overture	*Fanfare for a New Era*, James Curnow
Welcome and announcements	Voice overture
Processional	*Pomp and Circumstance, March No. 1*, Sir Edward Elgar, Arr. Alfred Reed
The national anthem	Lillian Fellows
Introductions and marshaling of the ceremony	Darryl Gardner, Vice Provost for Student Success, Support and Engagement
Greetings from the Board of Governors	The Honorable Danielle Atkinson
President's address	Richard A. Bierschbach, Interim President
Faculty acknowledgement	Stephen Chrisomalis, Academic Senate
Conferring of academic degrees	Interim President Bierschbach
Diploma march	
Student address video	Jasmine Moussa Farhat, B.A. '25, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Welcome to the Alumni Association video	Regina Baker, President, Wayne State Alumni Association
Ceremonial recognition of graduates	
Recessional	

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
JAMES AND PATRICIA ANDERSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
EUGENE APPLEBAUM COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

ORDER of EXERCISES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

1 p.m.

Overture	*Fanfare for a New Era*, James Curnow
Welcome and announcements	Voice overture
Processional	*Pomp and Circumstance, March No. 1*, Sir Edward Elgar, Arr. Alfred Reed
The national anthem	Lillian Fellows
Introductions and marshaling of the ceremony	Darryl Gardner, Vice Provost for Student Success, Support and Engagement
Greetings from the Board of Governors	The Honorable Sunny Reddy
President's address	Richard A. Bierschbach, Interim President
Faculty acknowledgement	Pramod Khosla, Academic Senate
Conferring of academic degrees	Interim President Bierschbach
Diploma march	
Student address video	Jasmine Moussa Farhat, B.A. '25, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Welcome to the Alumni Association video	Regina Baker, President, Alumni Association
Ceremonial recognition of graduates	
Recessional	

MIKE ILITCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
COLLEGE OF NURSING
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ORDER of EXERCISES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
5 p.m.

Overture	*Fanfare for a New Era*, James Curnow
Welcome and announcements	Voice overture
Processional	*Pomp and Circumstance, March No. 1*, Sir Edward Elgar, Arr. Alfred Reed
The national anthem	Lillian Fellows
Introductions and marshaling of the ceremony	Darryl Gardner, Vice Provost for Student Success, Support and Engagement
Greetings from the Board of Governors	The Honorable Shirley Stancato, *chair*
President's address	Richard A. Bierschbach, Interim President
Faculty acknowledgement	Noreen Rossi, Academic Senate
Conferring of academic degrees	Interim President Bierschbach
Diploma march	
Student address video	Jasmine Moussa Farhat, B.A. '25, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Welcome to the Alumni Association video	Regina Baker, President, Alumni Association
Ceremonial recognition of graduates	
Recessional	

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Jasmine Moussa Farhat
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jasmine Moussa Farhat is graduating with a B.A. in law and a B.A. in economics, with plans to attend law school and continue advocating for others. She is grounded in the belief that the people around us shape who we become, and that community is essential to growth. Born and raised in Michigan to Lebanese parents, she carries with her a deep sense of resilience, integrity and responsibility — traits that have guided her academic pursuits and her commitment to service.

Farhat co-founded Justice Corps, a pre-law organization dedicated to expanding access, awareness and pathways to social impact careers. She has taken on active roles in the Economics Club, where she has explored how policy and economic systems influence everyday lives. And for the past two semesters, she has served on Student Senate, intentionally placing herself in unfamiliar and challenging spaces so she could broaden her perspective and better understand the diverse experiences of her peers.

Every step of her Wayne State journey has been driven by an interest in making a tangible impact, building authentic connections, and ensuring students feel seen and heard. Whether advocating for student needs, fostering community through Justice Corps, or engaging in dialogue on the Senate, Farhat has worked to create a campus where collaboration and compassion matter. As she moves forward into the next chapter of her education, she carries the same values that shaped her time here: a commitment to purpose, a belief in collective growth and a dedication to using her voice for others.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

From the Graduate School
Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ph.D., *Dean*

Founded in 1933

August 2025

Yahia Abdelbar
B.B.A. 2009, Alexandria University
M.A. 2018, University of Windsor
Dissertation: "The Effect of Regulatory Intensity on Corporate Audit Fees and Payout Policies."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Anand Jha
Business Administration

Mustafa Alhababi
B.S. 2014, Indiana State University
M.S. 2016, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "A Unified Deep Learning Framework for Simultaneous Segmentation and Multiclass Classification of Chronic Wounds."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Gregory Auner and Hafiz Malik
Computer Engineering

Baraa Ali
B.S. 2007, University of Mosul
M.S. 2013, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Dissertation: "Improving The Robustness of Compressed Deep Learning Models Against Class Imbalance."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Nabil Sarhan and Mohammed Alawad
Computer Engineering

Eid Alshammari
B.S. 2011, Jouf University
M.S. 2019, Wright State University
Dissertation: "Structural and Mechanistic Insights into USP10 and USP7: Conformational Regulation and Inhibition Strategies."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Zhe Yang
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Deniz Altinpulluk
B.S. 2015, M.S. 2019, Middle East Technical University
Dissertation: "A Fleet-Level Condition-Based Robust Optimization Framework for Manufacturing & Energy Systems."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Murat Yildirim
Industrial Engineering

Hassan Arab
B.S.W. 2018, Kuwait University
M.S.W. 2021, Washington University in St. Louis
Dissertation: "Examining the Adjustment, Acculturation, and Well-Being of International Arab Students in the United States: Implications for Policy."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jun Sung Hong
Social Work

Mareena Atalla
B.A. 2016, M.A. 2020, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Mother-Child Interaction Quality as a Protective Factor in the Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma-Related Risk and Maternal Depressive Symptoms."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Marjorie Beeghly
Psychology

Samantha Brindley
B.A. 2015, Saginaw Valley State University
M.S. 2017, Oakland University
Dissertation: "A Motivational Approach to Understanding Uncertainty and Information-Seeking as an Inherent Condition of Relationships."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Stephanie Spielmann
Psychology

Scott DeGregoris
B.A. 2010, Wayne State University
M.A. 2012, University of Chicago
Dissertation: "Property Value(s): Race, Class, and Political Economy in Narratives of the Single-Family House and Lot."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Barrett Watten
English

Gabriel DeLong
B.A. 2017, The Pennsylvania State University
M.A. 2021, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "The Category is: Body: A Pcsim Approach to Culture-Specific Bid Healing Programming for BGCM."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sarah Kiperman
Counseling Psychology

Carlita Earl
B.S. 1997, M.Ed. 2003, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "The Alternative Schoolteachers' Perspective of African American Males' Experiences in Alternative Education."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Erica Edwards
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Zakaria Enayati
B.S. 2015, Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences
M.S. 2019, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences
Dissertation: "Informing the Police About Gait: A Simulation Study of Driving While Under the Influence (DUI)."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Anthony Cacace
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Shaylin Excell
B.S. 2014, Brigham Young University
M.A. 2023, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Social Support as a Predictor of Health and Mental Health Outcomes Among Homeless Adults Before and After the Covid-19 Pandemic."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Paul Toro
Psychology

Brendan Flynn
B.A. 2009, Bard College at Simon's Rock
Dissertation: "Unstable Rivalry: Structure, Domestic Politics, and Taiwan in U.S.-China Relations."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Brad Roth
Political Science

John France
B.S. 2016, Michigan State University
Dissertation: "Neurobiological Correlates of Emotion Processing and Cognitive Control Interference in Adolescents: The Role of Childhood Trauma."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Tanja Jovanovic
Translational Neuroscience

Laimar Garmo
B.S. 2017, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Mechanistic Insights into Pfas-Mediated Disruption of Bone Homeostasis: Impacts on Marrow Adiposity, Osteoclastogenesis, Macrophage Polarization and Prostate Cancer Progression."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Izabela Podgorski
Pharmacology

Aishwarya Ghosh
B.S. 2012, Asutosh College, University of Calcutta
M.S. 2017, St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta
Dissertation: "New Insights into the Control of the Bacterial Translation Initiation Machinery."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jared Schrader
Biological Sciences

Tushar Goyal
B.E. 2012, Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya
M.S. 2013, The University of Manchester
M.S. 2018, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Autoignition-assisted Flame Regimes in Ammonia and Dimethyl Ether Blends: A Sustainable Aviation Fuel."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Omid Samimi-Abianeh
Mechanical Engineering

Timothy Hasse
B.S. 2018, Oakland University
Dissertation: "Development and Application of Enhanced Sampling Techniques for Investigating Protein Interactions and Drug Discovery."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yu-Ming Huang
Physics

Qisheng He
B.S. 2015, Wichita State University
M.S. 2017, Eastern Michigan University
M.S. 2023, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "On Compressing Deep Neural Networks."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ming Dong
Computer Science

Joshua Hilton
B.B.A. 2015, M.A. 2016, Eastern Michigan University
Dissertation: "Greenwash and Greenhush: Applications of Signaling to Corporate Sustainability Communication."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Young-Ro Yoon
Economics

Hasan Iqbal
B.E. 2015, National University of Sciences and Technology
M.S. 2018, Tsinghua University
Dissertation: "Advancing Generative AI in 3D and 4D Spaces."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jing Hua
Computer Science

Ruchi Jaiswal
M.S. 2024, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Modulation of Global Proteome and Phosphoproteome by Trans Resveratrol and Hesperetin Coformulation in Diabetic Wound."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Zhengping Yi and Jiemei Wang
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Hashan Jayarathne
B.S. 2014, University of Peradeniya
Dissertation: "Exploring Canagliflozin an SGLT2i as a Gerotherapeutic for Cognitive Decline and Brain Aging."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Marianna Sadagurski
Biological Sciences

Matthew Jennings
B.A. 2019, Saint Martin's University
M.A. 2021, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Examining Risk Factors, Needed Services, and Barriers to Care for Homeless Adults: A Community Study Examining Wayne County, Michigan Over 20 Years."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Paul Toro
Psychology

Sijia Jiang
B.S. 2016, Zhejiang University
M.S. 2018, New York University
Dissertation: "Advancing Neural Implicit Representations for Efficient 3D Scene Reconstruction and Mapping."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jing Hua
Computer Science

Lisa Koshko
B.S. 2016, Oakland University
M.S. 2020, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Environmental Pollution and Early-Life Metabolic Programming."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Marianna Sadagurski
Biological Sciences

Nicole Kouri
B.A. 2010, Sarah Lawrence College
M.A. 2019, The New School for Social Research
Dissertation: "Adolescents' Dissociative Responses to Age-Typical Social Stressors: Links with Violence Exposure and Mental Health."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Valerie Simon
Psychology

Lakshani Wathsala Kulathungage
B.S. 2017, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Dissertation: "Transition Metal Alkoxide Complexes Synthesis using Thallium Reagents and Design of Iron(II)-Alkoxide Carbene Complexes and Their Reactivity."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Stanislav Groysman
Chemistry

Songwei Li
B.S. 2019, York University
Dissertation: "Neutron Star Low-mass X-ray Binaries In and Out of Focus: NuSTAR Stray Light."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Renee Ludlam
Physics

Kory Lohrmann
B.S. 2016, M.A. 2022, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act: Gun Control After 30 Years."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson
Political Science

Noribeth Mariscal
B.S. 2020, M.S. 2022, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Ozone Atmospheric Chemistry in Southeast Michigan."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yaoxian Huang
Civil Engineering

Adam Martin
B.S. 2019, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Effects of a Ketogenic Diet on Affective Valence in Recreational Distance Runners."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jeff Martin
Kinesiology

Velinka Marton
B.A. 2019, Oakland University
M.A. 2023, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "The Impact of Knowing Family History on Psychosocial Functioning in Young Adults: Considerations for Immigrant Status and Perceived Parenting."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Robert Ty Partridge
Psychology

Cathy Mcleod
B.S. 2011, University of Detroit Mercy
M.S. 2016, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "The Role of Protocadherin γ-C4 in Neuronal Survival and Self-avoidance in the Mouse Retina."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Andrew Garrett
Pharmacology

Morgan Minjares
B.S. 2021, Lawrence Technological University
Dissertation: "The Impact of Heterogeneity on Endothelial Function Under Hyperglycemia."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jiemei Wang
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Ali Kamali Mohammadzadeh
B.S. 2012, M.S. 2015, Tehran University
M.S. 2021, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "A Virtual Reality-Driven Approach for Collaborative Human-Robot Interaction."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sara Masoud
Industrial Engineering

Kearabetswe Mokoene
B.S.W. 2015, North-West University
M.A. 2018, University of Johannesburg
Dissertation: "Conceptualizing Black Beauty and Understanding the Effects of Beauty Socialization."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Michelle Jacobs
Sociology

Robert Neda
B.A. 2011, M.Ed. 2018, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "How a 12-Week Multimodal Functional Fitness Intervention for Older Adults Influences Functional Fitness Outcomes while Examining Program Participation Influence."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mariane Fahlman
Kinesiology

Thi Dai Trang Nguyen
B.S. 2018, Quy Nhon University
M.A. 2022, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Optimization of Free-time Controlled Constrained Sweeping Processes and Applications."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Boris Mordukhovich
Mathematics

David Patwin
B.A. 2019, M.S. 2021, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "An Elementary Approach to a New Monotonicity Formula with Application to the Nonhomogeneous Relativistic Brillouin Electron Flow."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Pei-Yong Wang and George Yin
Mathematics

Sumit Paudel
B.S. 2014, Tribhuvan University
M.S. 2017, University of Central Oklahoma
Dissertation: "Antimicrobial-Resistant Enterococcus in Urban Communities: Insights into Human Infection Risks."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yifan Zhang
Nutrition and Food Science

Zheyun Peng
B.S. 2018, Wuhan Institute of Technology
M.S. 2024, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "A siRNA-based Targeted Therapy for Treating Metabolic Dysfunction-associated Steatotic Liver Disease: A Precision Medicine Approach."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Wanqing Liu
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Bianca Pereira
B.Tech. 2010, D Y Patil University; Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics
M.S. 2012, University of Bath
M.S. 2018, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Gap Junction Protein CHE-7 Modulates the Insulin-like Peptide Network from Sensory Neurons to Promote Developmental Plasticity."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Joy Alcedo
Biological Sciences

Anthony Porath
B.S. 2018, Alma College
Dissertation: "Engineering Porosity in Porous Organic Polymers."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor James Bour
Chemistry

Sanaz Rabinia Haratbar
B.S. 2011, Shahid Beheshti University
M.S. 2013, Sharif University of Technology
Dissertation: "Data Sharing-aware Task Allocation Algorithms in Edge Computing Systems."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Daniel Grosu
Computer Science

Danielle Rice
B.S. 2014, Bowling Green State University
M.S.W. 2015, University of Michigan
M.S. 2018, Central Michigan University
Dissertation: "Circle of Stories: Exploring the Experiences of Black Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Professionals in Reflective Supervision/Consultation."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Carolyn Dayton
Social Work

Jacqueline Rodriguez-Stanley
B.S. 2018, Florida State University
M.A. 2020, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Latent Profiles of Primary and Secondary Stress Appraisal: Interpreting Cortisol Response to an Acute Laboratory Stressor."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Samuele Zilioli
Psychology

Mahdi Rouholamini
B.S. 2008, Hormozgan University
M.S. 2012, Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman
Dissertation: "Graph Theory Based Planning of Distributed Energy Resources Integrated Power Distribution Networks for Resiliency Enhancement Against Extreme Weather Events."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Caisheng Wang
Electrical Engineering

Halima Salah
B.S. 2017, American University of Sharjah
M.S. 2021, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Impact of Anthropogenic Emission Estimates on Air Quality and Human Health Effects."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yaoxian Huang
Civil Engineering

Mehdi Salarkaleji
B.S. 2008, Shiraz University of Technology
M.S. 2013, Isfahan University of Technology
Dissertation: "Frequency and Polarization-Diversified Linear Sampling Method for 3D Spectrally-Encoded Microwave Tomography and Remote Sensing Using Metamaterial Leaky Wave Antenna."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Ivan Avrutsky and Chung-Tse Michael Wu
Electrical Engineering

Alexander Sertage
B.S. 2020, University of Toledo
Dissertation: "Advanced Lanthanide Probes for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computational Modeling."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Matthew Allen
Chemistry

Kimberly Stokes
B.A. 2013, M.Ed. 2014, Howard University
M.A. 2021, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Centering Sisterhood: An Exploration of Black Mothers' Wellness Experiences Through a Group Therapy Intervention."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Shannon Chávez-Korell
Counseling Psychology

Sayma Sultana
B.S. 2017, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology
M.S. 2023, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Identifying and Developing Intervention to Mitigate Gender Bias Among Software Developers."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Amiangshu Bosu
Computer Science

Halle Thomas
B.S.2017, Yale University
M.A. 2024, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Novel Instagram Intervention Targeting Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emily Grekin
Psychology

Viet Tran
B.A. 2012, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City
M.B.A. 2018, M.S. 2019, Portland State University
Dissertation: "Essays on the Drivers of Strategic Alliances."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Anand Jha
Business Administration

Sikai Zhong
B.S. 2014, Jiangsu University of Technology
M.S. 2017, University of Shanghai for Science & Technology
Dissertation: "Restricted Delaunay-Based Anisotropic Meshing with Riemannian Metrics."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Zichun Zhong
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B.A. 2018, Minnesota State University
Dissertation: "The Design, Synthesis, and Evaluation of Heparanase Inhibitors from Commercially Available Aminoglycosides to Target Heparanase Driven Tumor Progression and Metastasis."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Hien Nguyen
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B.S. 2018, University of Ottawa
M.S. 2019, University of Western Ontario
Dissertation: "Algorithmic Inference in the Adams Spectral Sequence."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Daniel Isaksen
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B.S. 2018, M.S. 2020, Central Michigan University
Dissertation: "Investigating Metabolic Pathways Impacted by PNPLA3 and the I148M Variant: Implications for Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease and Cardiovascular Disease."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emilio Mottillo
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B.A. 2019, Concordia University Irvine
M.A. 2021, University of Louisville
Dissertation: "Argumentation in the Post-Truth Era, Expanding Post-Dialectics Through an Assemblage Criticism of the Contemporary Political Aparatus."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Kelly Young
Communication

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B.A. 2015, Oakland University
M.A. 2019, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Psychosocial Factors Associated with College Re-Entry Among Students with Serious Mental Illness."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Francesca Pernice
Counseling Psychology

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B.S. 1999, Edo State University
M.S. 2003, University of Ibadan
Dissertation: "Evaluating the Effects of Urban Tree Canopy Cover Changes on Stormwater Quality and Quantity Within a Sub-watershed in the Rouge River Watershed."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Carol Miller
Civil Engineering

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B.A. 2012, Liverpool John Moores University
M.A. 2017, University of Sheffield
Dissertation: "The Silent Sovereign: Taiwan in a One China World."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Brad Roth
Political Science

Katherine Halquist
B.A. 2009, St. Olaf College
M.S.W. 2013, University of Michigan
Dissertation: "Prenatal Parental Representations of the Child Among Urban Black and White Fathers: The Influence of Psychological, Relational, and Contextual Factors and Stability into the Postpartum Period."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Ann Stacks and Carolyn Dayton
Social Work

Andrew Herppich
B.S. 2019, Oakland University
Dissertation: "Refining Kinase-catalyzed Labeling: Methodological Advances and Applications to Cell Biology."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mary Kay Pflum
Chemistry

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B.S. 2009, M.A. 2015, American University of Beirut
Dissertation: "Civil Service Quality and Corruption in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region."
Dissertation Advisors: Professors Sharon Lean and Alisa Moldavanova
Political Science

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B.S. 2014, Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology
M.S. 2022, Columbus State University
Dissertation: "Advancing Federated Learning in Resource-aware Computing."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mohammed Alawad
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B.A. 2017, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Characterization of the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Phenotypic Heterogeneity in Myxococcus Xanthus."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Penelope Higgs
Biological Sciences

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B.A. 2014, Grand Valley State University
M.A. 2018, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Representations of Respectability in Early Modern Drama: Socio-sexual Hierarchies and Intimate Labor."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Simone Chess
English

Nina Kelly
B.A. 2003, Michigan State University
M.A. 2008, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Civic Media Practice and Local Democratic Effects: A Mixed Methods Study of the Rapidian and the Grand Rapids Community Media Center."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Julie Novak
Communication

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B.E. 2016, Shanghai University of Engineering Science
M.S. 2019, Eastern Michigan University
Dissertation: "Materials for the Thermally Controlled Delivery of Inhalable Nitric Oxide."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor James Bour
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B.S. 2005, M.A. 2011, Ed.S 2019 Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Translanguaging and Belonging: Arabic Speakers in a U.S. Secondary Science Classroom."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Christina DeNicolo
Educational Studies

Emma Noble
B.S. 2018, Madonna University
Dissertation: "Medical Gaslighting: Illuminating the Silhouette and Taking a Measured Step Forward."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Rick Zimmerman
Nursing

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B.S. 2013, University of Nigeria
M.S. 2019, Osaka University Japan
Dissertation: "Valproate Decreases Inositol by Increased Opi1 Nuclear translocation and Glycolysis."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Miriam Greenberg
Biological Sciences

Mary Parkinson
B.A. 1991, Grand Valley State University
M.A. 1995, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Reframing Higher Weight."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Fred Vultee
Communication

Neha Rajput
B.Tech. 2012, Jayoti Vidyapeeth Womens University
M.Tech. 2015, Birla Institute of Technology Pilani, Hyderabad
Dissertation: "Neural Basis of Individual Differences in the Exploratory Behavior of Adult Zebrafish."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Justin Kenney
Biological Sciences

Amirreza Samarbakhsh
B.S. 2017, The College of Saint Rose
M.A. 2020, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Design and Development of Broad-spectrum Antiviral Therapeutics by Targeting Coronavirus Plprotease."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Navnath Gavande
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Michael Schmidt
B.A. 2019, Oakland University
Dissertation: "Testing the Acceptability and Efficacy of a Smoking Cessation Intervention Video Series: A Randomized Controlled Trial."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emily Grekin
Psychology

Anamika Sharma
B.S. 2017, College of Veterinary Science, GADVASU
M.S. 2019, College of Veterinary Science, DUVASU
Dissertation: "Inflammatory Mediators and Their Role in Proliferative Retinopathies."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Nikhlesh Singh
Anatomy and Cell Biology

Elizabeth Slane
B.S. 2018, M.S. 2020, University of Toledo
Dissertation: "Mechanisms of Flame Retardant-Induced Hippocampal Cell Death."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Brian Cummings
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Wesley Starnes
B.S. 2017, University of Pittsburgh
M.A. 2019, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "The Risk is Social Knowledge (Risk) Model: How Risk Behaviors Become Means to Goals Through the Influence of Social Narratives."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Catalina Kopetz
Psychology

Like Wang
B.S. 2017, China University of Geoscience
Dissertation: "Global Atmospheric Nitrous Acid Simulation in a Chemistry-Climate Model."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yaoxian Huang
Civil Engineering

Alexis Wilson
B.S. 2020, Grand Valley State University
Dissertation: "The Role of Adipocyte-induced Stress in Metastatic Prostate Progression in Bone."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Izabela Podgorski
Cancer Biology

Krista Wonderly
B.S. 2016, University of Michigan
Dissertation: "Nursing Support for Anticipatory Grief in Families of Critically Ill Patients."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Rick Zimmerman
Nursing

Jill Wurm
B.A. 2001, M.E. 2005, M.A. 2020, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Autism on Screen: How Entertainment Media Programs and Personal Experience Shape Viewer Acceptance of Ableism."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Rosie Jahng
Communication

Haikuan Zhu
B.S. 2016, Beijing University of Chemical Technology
M.S. 2019, Xiamen University
Dissertation: "3D Odeco Tensor Fields Design and Application on Microstructured Metamaterials."
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Zichun Zhong
Computer Science

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Dissertation: "Examining the Gap in the K-12 Superintendency and African American Women in Michigan"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski

December 2025

George August Chapp
B.A. 2000, Michigan State University
M.A. 2007, Michigan School of Psychology
M.A.T. 2006, Ed.S. 2011, Wayne State University
Dissertation: "Examining the Impact of Inter-District Cooperation on Education Equity Amongst Urban and Inner-Ring Suburban Public-School Districts in Metropolitan Detroit"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sarah Lenhoff

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MASTER OF MUSIC

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The Academy of Scholars is committed to recognizing outstanding excellence in scholarship and in creative achievement of the faculty members at Wayne State University. The academy's founding purpose was and has remained to raise the scholastic prestige of the university by bringing the most prominent academic experts to campus under its aegis and to create a community of scholars from among its most celebrated researchers. Appointment to the academy is the highest recognition that may be bestowed upon faculty members by their colleagues.

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Donal O'Leary, *Physiology*
Julie Ya Qin, *Law*
Charles Winter, *Chemistry*

CAPS, GOWNS AND HOODS

One of the most colorful features of an academic procession is the appearance of the graduates, faculty, cabinet and Board of Governors in full academic costume. These caps, gowns and hoods have long histories, and their patterns and colors have special significance.

The gown recalls the time when all students in centers of higher learning were members of the clergy and therefore wore garments the church considered proper.

The custom of wearing a cap comes from the Roman practice of giving slaves the right to wear a cap when they were granted their freedom. The Oxford or "mortarboard" cap worn today is thought to be a combination of the close-fitting cap worn indoors by scholars of the Middle Ages and the soft square biretta worn outdoors. The tuft on the early cap has been replaced by a colored tassel that signifies the college granting the degree.

In modern universities, the distinctive mark of a degree is the hood, which in its earliest form was simply an article of clothing. Since the churches and lecture halls of European universities were cold, drafty places, scholars wore hoods as head coverings, attached to a cape or worn separately.

American universities, unlike those of England and Europe, have adopted a standard code of academic costume. The design of the gown; the color of the tassel; and the pattern, length and colors of the hood all have special meaning.

Each graduate wears a gown appropriate to the degree granted. The bachelor's gown is closed at the throat and has long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown has oblong sleeves, open at the wrists, and tapers at the back in a square cut. The doctor's gown is faced with velvet and has bell-shaped sleeves. Each sleeve carries three bars of velvet, or chevrons. Wayne State uses a specially designed green gown for its Ph.D. and Ed.D. candidates.

The most colorful part of the costume is the hood. The color of the velvet trim indicates the department in which the degree was granted; the width corresponds to the level of the degree. At this ceremony, candidates for master's and doctoral degrees wear hoods with lining in the university's colors.

College and color of tassels:

Business	Drab
Education	Light Blue
Engineering	Orange
Fine, Performing and Communication Arts	Brown
Graduate Studies	Crimson
Information Sciences	Yellow
Law	Purple
Liberal Arts and Sciences	White
Medicine	Green
Nursing	Apricot
Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Olive
Social Work	Citron

WAYNE STATE
Alumni Association

Congratulations from the Wayne State University Alumni Association!

On behalf of the Wayne State University Alumni Association, congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone! Earning your Wayne State degree is a reflection of your dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence — achievements that will continue to shape your future and the world around you.

As a proud graduate, you now join a global network of more than 305,000 Wayne State alumni — innovators, leaders and changemakers who embody what it means to be Warrior Strong. You are automatically a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, connecting you to a community that will support your professional and personal growth for years to come.

Beyond graduation, your Wayne State connection continues. Visit campus, attend alumni events, volunteer and explore the many programs and opportunities designed to help you grow. From career support and networking to lifelong learning and mentorship, the Alumni Association is here to help you move forward with confidence and purpose.

The pride we feel in your accomplishments is matched only by our excitement for all that lies ahead. Welcome to a lifelong community that celebrates your success, champions your potential and keeps you forever Warrior Strong.

With Warrior pride,

Regina Baker

Dr. Regina Baker, Education ’75, ’10, ’21
President, Wayne State University Alumni Association